



CONTENTS *continued*

| | <i>Page</i> |
|---|-------------|
| British Caribbean water supply <i>Edward W. Moore</i> | 428 |
| Transport medium for specimens in public health bacteriology <i>R. D. Stuart</i> | 431 |
| Radiation control activities in a local health department <i>M. R. Zaron and C. A. Wilzbach</i> | 439 |
| Public exposure to radiation <i>Arthur S. Flemming</i> | 441 |
| Blindness in California children <i>Nedra B. Belloc, Phyllis H. Mattson, and William D. Simmons</i> | 444 |
| Economic poisons control. Symposium | 449 |
| Patients served by a mental health unit of a city health department <i>Jacob Tuckman and Martha Lavell</i> | 455 |
| Arthropod-borne encephalitis in the United States, 1957 <i>Jacob A. Brody and Walter A. Murray, Jr.</i> | 461 |
| Short reports and announcements: | |
| Alaskan Research Advisory Committee | 381 |
| Rabies. Epidemiological note | 391 |
| Shellfish Sanitation Laboratory moves | 398 |
| Children on their own | 404 |
| Status of fluoridation in community water supplies | 427 |
| The International Health Year | 430 |
| Study of back supports for premature infants | 438 |
| Human genetics research training | 443 |
| Career opportunities | 460 |
| Anticancer drug development | 468 |
| Publications | 469 |
| Signs and symptoms | 470 |



MANAGING DIRECTOR

WILLIAM H. STEWART, M.D.
Chief, Division of Public Health Methods

BOARD OF EDITORS

EDWARD G. MCGAVRAN, M.D., M.P.H.
Chairman

FRANCIS A. ARNOLD, JR., D.D.S.

HAROLD D. CHOPE, M.D., DR.P.H.

MANDEL E. COHEN, M.D.

CARL C. DAUER, M.D.

W. PALMER DEARING, M.D.

J. STEWART HUNTER, M.A.

CHARLES V. KIDD, Ph.D.

ALEXANDER D. LANGMUIR, M.D., M.P.H.

KARL M. MASON, B.S.S.E., M.P.H.

RUTH SLEEPER, R.N., M.A.

WILSON T. SOWDER, M.D., M.P.H.

MARY SWITZER

FRANKLIN H. TOP, M.D., M.P.H.

STAFF

Marcus Rosenblum *Executive Editor*

Winona Carson *Managing Editor*

Martha Seaman *Asst. Managing Editor*

Address correspondence to Executive Editor

Public Health Reports, published since 1878 under authority of an act of Congress of April 29 of that year, is issued monthly by the Public Health Service pursuant to the following authority of law: United States Code, title 42, sections 241, 245, 247; title 44, section 220. Use of funds for printing this publication approved by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, August 24, 1957.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

ARTHUR S. FLEMMING, *Secretary*

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

LEROY E. BURNEY, *Surgeon General*

from public health reports

AN EPIDEMIC OF A SEVERE PNEUMONITIS IN THE BAYOU REGION OF LOUISIANA¹

By B. J. OLSON, *Surgeon, United States Public Health Service*, and W. L. TREUTING, *Director, Division of Preventive Medicine, Louisiana State Department of Health*

I. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY

This report concerns an epidemic of a severe pneumonitis which occurred in 6 scattered parishes of Louisiana over a total area of approximately 20,000 square miles. The disease was recognized as an entity only after an epidemiological study of 3 cases was begun on March 8, 1943. This particular variety of pneumonitis was unusual in that it spread among nursing contacts of cases and had a high mortality—8 deaths in 19 recognized cases.

The initial case was the wife of a trapper living 3 miles east of Creole on the Little Chenier, Cameron Parish (figs. 1 and 2). On December 4, 1942, this individual (case 1) developed an acute febrile illness at her home, became progressively worse, and was transferred to a sanatorium in Ville Platte, La., 120 miles northeast of Creole, where she expired on December 18, 1942. One nurse who had attended her became ill with a similar acute illness on December 24, 1942, and died on January 6, 1943 (case 2). The husband of case 1, who had remained in close attendance during her illness, returned to his home, where he became ill on December 24, 1942 (case 3), and died on January 26, 1943. An elderly man who was hospitalized in the sanatorium in a room adjacent to that occupied by case 1 developed a pneumonitis after leaving the sanatorium and recovered after a severe illness of long duration (case 4).

Case 2 was treated in the sanatorium and gave rise to six secondary cases of the disease in nurses or in individuals who acted as nurses during her illness (cases 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10). Of this series, cases 7 and 8 were treated in the sanatorium; cases 5, 6, and 9 in their homes

¹ From the Division of Infectious Diseases, National Institute of Health, and the Louisiana State Department of Health.

² Presented to the Louisiana State Medical Society, April 25, 1944.

OCTOBER 6, 1944, pp. 1299-1311

B. J. Olson and W. L. Treuting and others in a series of seven studies isolated and described an agent belonging to the psittacosis-lymphogranuloma venereum group of viruses.